

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 stand rejected. In this Response, claims 1-5 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 6-8 have been amended and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 6-8 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Specification

In Office Action paragraph 1, the specification was objected to as containing an informality. Specifically, the term "juggy" was objected to.

The term "juggy" in the specification was mistakenly misspelled, and should have been "jaggy." The term "jaggy" means a phenomenon in which the edges of a graphic have a rough or stair-stepped appearance. See the specification at page 2, lines 12-14.

The specification and abstract have been amended to correct the spelling of the term "jaggy."

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §§ 102, 103

In Office Action paragraph 3, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (US 5,379,130). In Office Action paragraph 6, claims 1-2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (Japanese Published Patent Application No. 7-107294). In Office Action paragraph 7, claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe combined with Shimada et al. (US 4,550,434) Applicants respectfully disagree.

Although Applicants do not agree with the rejections, claims 1-5 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 6-8 have been amended to quickly place the application in condition for allowance.

The present invention pertains to image processing in which the jaggy edge of a picture can be removed.

Claims 6-8 have been amended to clarify the claims. The amendment clarifies claim 6 by reciting the weighting means for weighting the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels in accordance with the positions calculated by said position calculation means. Claims 7 and 8 have been similarly amended. Applicants' invention provides weighting to a pixel value of a noticed pixel. Further, weighting is also provided to the pixel value of pixels juxtaposed the noticed pixel. Two or more pixel values which gave the weighting can be blended and outputted as a noticed pixel. Applicants' weighting of noticed pixels and juxtaposed pixels (pixels juxtaposed to the noticed pixels) easily allows removal of a jaggy edge of a picture.

Turning to Watanabe, Watanabe purports to provide picture coating equipment which raises the reproducibility and quality of a picture by preventing picture degradation at the edge of the picture. In order to raise the reproducibility of the picture, Watanabe expresses the pixel value change in a screen on a curved surface, and performs weighting by calculating the square error of pixel value change and curved surface change.

Conversely, the present invention removes the jaggy edge of a picture easily by performing weighting to the pixel value of a pixel and to the pixel values of juxtaposed pixels. Weighting of pixel values and juxtaposed pixel values is neither disclosed nor suggested by Watanabe.

Furthermore, objectives of the present invention and Watanabe are quite different. Watanabe asserts that the reproducibility of a reproduction picture is raised by decreasing a coding error. Conversely, the present invention provides removing the jaggy edge of a picture easily by weighting pixels and juxtaposed pixels. Also, Watanabe purports to reduce dotage or block distortion of an edge portion of an image by performing processing of the second power error of the pixel value.

Conversely, the present invention removes a jaggy edge of a picture by smoothing the edge using weighting of pixel values of pixels and juxtaposed pixels. Accordingly, since Watanabe is significantly different from the present invention, there is no motivation, suggestion or teaching to modify Watanabe to obtain Applicants' invention.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-8 have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



Michael S. Leonard
Reg. No. 37,557
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4270

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